

REMARKS

Claims 75-78, 80, 83-86, 88-96, 99, and 102-123 are pending. Claims 122-123 are cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, no new matter will be added upon entry of the amendment. Upon entry of the amendment claims 75-78, 80, 83-86, 88-96, 99, and 102-121 will be pending.

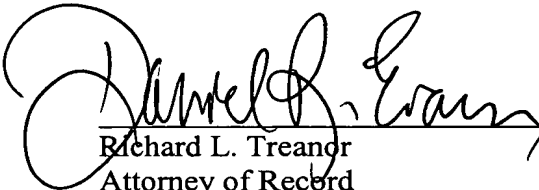
Applicant believes that the claims are in a condition for allowance and kindly directs the Examiner attention to the remarks made in the June 4, 2004, Amendment and Request for Reconsideration, in support thereof.

Once again, Applicant apologizes to the Examiner for the large number of references that were cited in the **Information Disclosure Statement** filed on June 4, 2004. These references have been brought to light due to concurrent prosecution in related patent applications (U.S. 6,404,499; U.S. 10/107,318; U.S. 09/418,505; U.S. 10/701,426; EP 97926761.4; and EP 96909649.4). Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the cited references by returning copies of initialed, signed, and dated Forms PTO-1449, which cite these references.

It is believed that the pending claims are free from all rejections and are distinguishable from all of the cited references. Consequently, it is believed that the application is in a condition for allowance. An early and favorable indication of the same is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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